PATENT Customer No. 22,852 Attorney Docket No. 02886.0088-00

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re A	oplication of:	
Hirotaka TODAKA et al.		Group Art Unit: Not Assigned
Application No.: Not Assigned )		Examiner: Not Assigned
Filed: February 23, 2004		
l	PARTIALLY REINFORCING ) METHOD AND APPARATUS OF ) METAL MATERIAL )	
Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450		
Sir		

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to the examination of the above application, please amend this application as follows:

## IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A partial reinforcing method of a metal material for reinforcing a part of the a metal material, comprised of comprising:

a first press step for generating a plastic strain by a plastic flow of metal material on a front surface and a rear surface of the part to be reinforced, to form a front convex-concave surface and a rear convex-concave surface; and

FINNEGAN HENDERSON FARABOW GARRETT & DUNNER LP

1300 I Street, NW Washington, DC 20005 202.408.4000 Fax 202.408.4400 www.finnegan.com